



# Usborne Phonics Readers Hen's pens



Usborne Phonics Readers have been created in consultation with a language expert, taking into account the latest research on the most effective ways of teaching reading. Children who have just learned to read can enjoy the lively stories with very little guidance from an adult, gaining the experience and enthusiasm they need to become fully confident readers.

Stephen Cartwright's delightful illustrations complement the text and are designed to stimulate further interest. Fold-out pages add to the enjoyment.

£4.99

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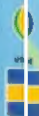
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Supports  
synthetic  
phonics  
learning



Phil Roxbee Cox & Stephen Cartwright

## What is synthetic phonics?

Phonics-based reading involves learning to recognize the distinct sounds, or phonemes, that go together to make up words. There are just over 40 phonemes in the English language. Some phonemes correspond to a single letter, like the h-e-n sounds in the word "hen", and others to combinations of letters, such as the sh-ee-p sounds in the word "sheep".

Synthetic phonics is the process of reading by *sounding* the individual phonemes in a word, and then synthesizing – running them together – or *blending* them to read the whole word. Children who learn to read using synthetic phonics start by learning the individual phonemes, then soon learn to sound and blend in order to read whole words. This gives them the confidence to read unfamiliar words and tackle new texts, an important step towards independent reading.

Words can be divided into two basic groups: regular phonic words, such as "hen", which can be read by sounding and blending, and words which are wholly or partly irregular. Most words in English are regular, but some very common words, such as "the" and "was", are irregular and have to be learned. When your child meets an unfamiliar word, encourage him or her to read it regularly; children may recognize the irregularity and correct themselves, or you can guide them if necessary.

Read this story with your child, encouraging him or her to sound out the words as you go. Soon, most children will start to sound out the words for themselves. This is an excellent way of helping to develop a fundamental reading skill.

Dr. Marlynne Grant

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Illustrated by Stephen Cartwright


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There is a little yellow duck to find on every page.

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Hen has new pens.



She has ten  
new pens.



"When will you use your  
new pens, Hen?"

"Now, Brown  
Cow!"



"What will you  
draw?"



"Straw..."



... and the big blue sky,  
and a yellow bird flying by."



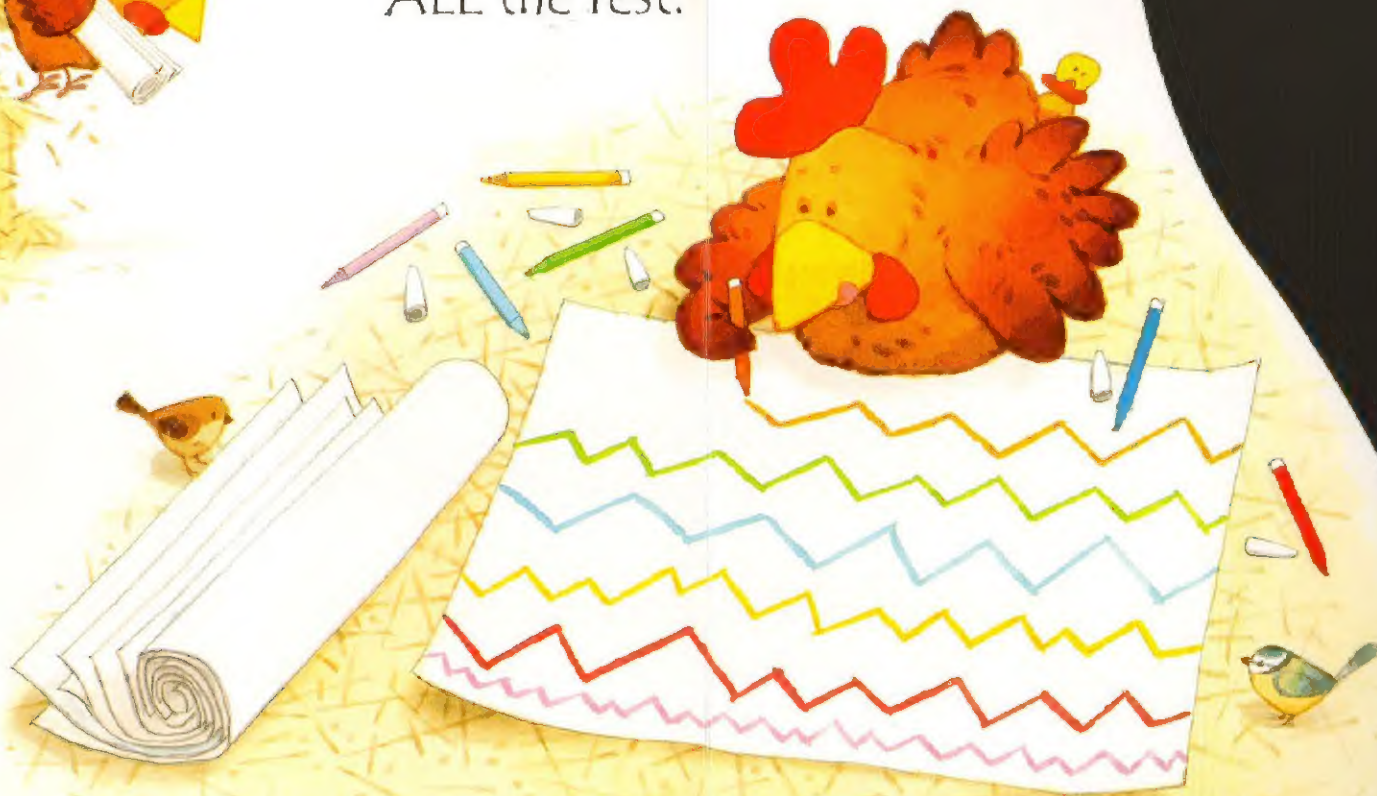
Hen hops  
off her  
nest.



"Drawing patterns is  
what I like best."

"And zigzags are better than  
ALL the rest."

Hen hops  
off her  
nest.





She zigs and zags from left to right.



She zigs and zags all day  
and night...



... until her paper  
has run out.





"What can I draw on now?" she shouts.



"Draw on your eggs!" says Brown Cow.

"Draw big dots on your eggs."  
"Or more zigzags?" Hen begs.



Hen's zigzags are very bright indeed.

"Zigzags are  
just what ALL  
eggs need!"



"I'm sure the others  
will not mind..."





...if I zigzag  
all the eggs  
I find."



Now all the  
eggs are in a  
dreadful mix.



Sorting them out  
is hard to fix.





Hen has made a bad mistake.  
That's not her chick.



It's a baby snake!

